(c) whether the development work is not being carried out at full pace for want of approval of these projects and common people are suffering because of that?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Sixty eight industrial projects, eleven thermal power projects, nine river valley projects, forty five mining projects and twenty four infrastructure projects are currently awaiting environmental clearance.

(c) With a view to avoiding delays, the procedures of environmental appraisal have been streamlined and, normally, decisions on projects are taken within ninety days of receipt of complete information.

**Residential Colony on Forest Land in Nainital**

†2538. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a residential colony had been settled since independence on the land of Forest Department named Vindukhatta in Nainital district of Uttaranchal and that colony is expanding continuously;

(b) if so, the reasons for not regularising such colonies, even after enforcement of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980; and

(c) whether Government are considering to construct a boundary or for fencing around the rest of the forest land, in order to protect the forest land from increasing encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As repored by Government of Uttaranchal in undivided Uttar Pradesh, about 55 ha. of Reserved Forest land was allotted to 129 families through a U.P. Government order in 1975 to encourage dairy development. No other family has been allotted any forest land at "Vindukhatta". However, about 3470.30 ha. forest land has been encroached at "Vindukhatta" from 1978 to 1983.

(b) According to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, In no case encroachments which have taken place after 24-10-1980 should be regularized. Further, the Supreme Court has restrained the Central Government from regularization of encroachments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) it is not feasible to construct a boundary wall around the forest area for protection purposes. Effective patrolling is the standard method for protection of forests.

**Entry fee for Ranthambhore Tiger Project**

†2539. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules for entry of tourists and vehicles in RanthambhoreTiger Project and the entry fee therefor;

(b) the persons and the vehicles entitled for free entry in the project;

(c) the number of tourists who visited the project during the last three years and the amount charged from them, as entry fee; and

(d) what type of improvements in the transport system Government propose to make, so that every visiting tourists gets a chance to roam there?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Entry of tourists and vehicles in RanthambhoreTiger Reserve is regulated through theWildlife (Protection) (Rajasthan), Rules 1977 and amendments made there under, from time to time. Entry fee charged from tourists and vehicles is in accordance with Government of Rajasthan notification No.F11(35) Forest/97 Jaipur dated 16-11-2000. Datails of entry fees and vehicle charges are as follows:—

**Public entry fee**

| | Category | Entrance fee (in Rs.) | Eco Development surcharge (in Rs.) | Total fee per person per visit (in Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | Indian citizens | 5 | 20 | 25 |
| (b) | Non-Indian citizens | 50 | 150 | 200 |
| (c) | Students (Indian) | 1 | 4 | 5 |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.